the US State Department, on the eve of UN Human Rights Conference at Geneva, commenting on India that "Despite extensive Constitutional safeguards, significant human rights abues persist through India" and that "the abuses are aggravated by servere social tensions" adding that "abuses are particularly acute in disturbed areas, such as Punjab and Kashmir, where judicial system has broken down in the face of terrorist threats"; and

(b) if so, whether Government have reacted to the disinformation spread thereby, if so in what terms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):(a) Yes sir.

(b) Government have on a continuing basis been impressing upon the US Government that India's commitment to human rights is second to none. Government remain committed to safeguarding the human rights of its innocent and law abiding citizens. The National Human Rights Commission has started functioning and India has also permitted access to certain international non-governmental organisations. Government's efforts to restore normalcy in J & K are being hindered by Pakistan's continuing support to terrorism in India.

Pakistan's Letter to UN Secretary General's Spekesman on Kashmir

1051. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention ha been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India dated January 27, 1994 to the effect that Pakistan has circulated a concocted letter attributed to the spokesman of the UN Secretary General questioning the Indian position on UN resolutions on Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what steps have since been taken to set the matters right both in UN and diplomatic circles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The High Commission of Pakistan in Mauritius had issued a Press Release quoting the Spokesman for the UN Secretary General, questioning the Indian position on UN Resolutions on Kashmir. The Government of India had taken up the matter with the Spokesman of the UN Secretary General, who has in a letter addressed to the Pakistani Mission in the UN categorically denied the statements attributed to him be Pakistan and indicated the factual position. The Spokesman has also asked Pakistan to issue appropriate corrections in locations where the Pakistani press release was issued.

Bilateral Talks with Myanmar

1052. CHOWDHURY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Myanmar's Deputy Foreign Minister visited New Delhi in January 1994 for bilateral talks for normalisation of relations with Myanmar ;

(b) if so, what specific issues were discussed during his visit : and

(c) what are the result to achieved ?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A seven-member Myanmar delegation headed by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Union of Myanmar visited India from 19–24 January, 1994.

(b) The entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed during the visit.

(c) During the visit two agreements were signed namely the Border Trade Agreement to augment and regulate the bilateral trade through the land route across the border and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Civilian Border Authorities aimed at curbing trans-border movement of insurgents, narco-traffickers, smugglers, etc.

Encroachment of Indian Land by Nepal

1053. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 263 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1993 and state :

(a) at what levels of Government the issue of encroachment of 5000 hectares of Indian